

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9-11, 13, 14, 16, and 24-29 are pending. Claims 1, 7, 10, and 27 have been amended, claims 4, 6, 8, 12, 15, and 17-23 have been canceled, and new claim 29 has been added to recite additional features of the invention. None of the amendments presented in this paper raise new issues requiring further searching or consideration by the Examiner. Moreover, the number of new claims added in this paper does not exceed the total number of claims finally rejected. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that entry of this paper is proper.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1-5 and 28 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) for being obvious in view of a Jankowiak-Reilly combination. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 defines a method which (1) divides a display panel into at least two pixel block sets and then (2) sequentially performs screen save modes for each of the pixel block sets. As a non-limiting example, consider Figs. 4A and 4B which show that the screen save modes are performed on a block-by-block basis (e.g., sequentially), where each block represents less than the full screen. This sequential process continues until screen save modes are applied to all of the blocks. As a result, substantially enhanced luminance performance may be attained over the lives of the pixels. The Jankowiak does not teach or suggest the dividing and sequential steps of the claimed invention.

The Jankowiak patent discloses applying a screen-saver to a display. This is accomplished in essentially two steps. First, the user defines the size of a detection window within the display screen. Second, if the pixels in the window do not change by a certain amount during a predetermined time period, a control unit activates a screen-saver.

However, the Jankowiak patent does not teach or suggest (1) “dividing the display panel into at least two pixel block sets” and then (2) “sequentially performing screen save modes for each pixel block set.” In contrast to claim 1, the Jankowiak method applies a screensaver either to the entire screen (column 8, lines 37-45, and column 20, lines 20-22: “reducing the contrast of the image in its entirety”) or just within the detection window (column 9, lines 17-27). Jankowiak does not teach or suggest applying screen save modes to each of the divided pixel block sets sequentially (i.e., on a block-by-block basis) as recited in claim 1.

Moreover, claim 1 recites that the “the screen save modes apply screen save mode data, which turns pixels within the pixel block set on or off or inverts the display data, to the block set.” The Jankowiak patent does not teach or suggest these features. As discussed at column 3, lines 47-57, and column 4, lines 44-58, the Jankowiak screensaver reduces the contrast of the image in a way that leaves the image visible. Indeed, this is the very purpose of the Jankowiak screensaver, i.e., to only reduce the image contrast to leave a still-visible image. (See column 2, lines 13-24, and column 3, lines 47-57). In contrast, the screen save modes of the claimed invention turn all of the pixels in each block set either on or off or inverts their values. These features are not taught or suggested by Jankowiak.

Moreover, in the Final Office Action, the Examiner pointed to column 5, lines 35-45 to support his position that the Jankowiak screen saver turns the pixels in each block set on or off. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has misunderstood this portion of Jankowiak. The disclosure at column 5, lines 35-45, relates to sampling the portion of the image within the detection window, specifically to determine whether a certain amount of change has occurred during a certain time period. Column 5, lines 35-45, do not indicate that a screen saver applied within the window turns pixels on or off or inverts them as recited in claim 1. Reliance on this portion of Jankowiak to supply the screen save mode data of claim 1 is therefore improper.

Further, claim 1 recites that the “the pixel block sets for the screen save modes is any one of a column block consisting of at least one pixel column, a row block consisting of at least one pixel row, or a pixel block consisting of $N1 \times M1$ ($N1$ and $M1$ are positive integers) pixels.” The Jankowiak patent does not teach or suggest applying screen save modes sequentially to pixel block sets as defined by amendment to claim 1, where the screen save modes turn on, turn off, or invert the display data in each of the block sets.

The Reilly patent was cited for disclosing applying screen saver modes to different types of computers. However, Reilly does not teach or suggest the features of claim 1 missing from the Jankowiak patent.

Because the Jankowiak and Rielly patents do not teach or suggest all the features of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that a Jankowiak-Reilly combination cannot render claim 1 and its dependent claims obvious. Allowance of these claims is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 28 recites that “the screen save mode data turns all pixels within the pixel block set on or off sequentially.” For reasons similar to those presented above, these features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 7, 9-11, 13, 14, and 27 under 35 USC § 102(e) for being anticipated by the Jankowiak patent. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 7 recites “configuring pixels of the display panel into at least one pixel column block set when the display data are uniformly maintained for a predetermined time” and “sequentially performing screen save modes on each pixel column block set, wherein the screen save modes apply screen save mode data, which turns pixels within the pixel column block set on or off or inverts the display data, to the pixel column block set.” As discussed above, the Jankowiak patent does not disclose these features. Based on these differences, it is submitted that claim 7 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Claims 10, 13, and 27 recite features similar to those which patentably distinguish claims 1 or 7 from the Jankowiak patent and therefore are allowable along with their dependent claims.

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) for being obvious in view of the Jankowiak patent. Claim 16 depends from claim 13 which is allowable for the reasons mentioned above. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 16 is allowable by virtue of this dependency.

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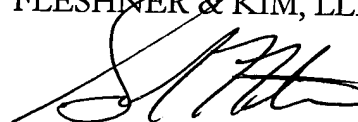
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Claims 24-26 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) for being obvious in view of a Jankowiak-Reilly combination. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable at least by virtue of the features recited in their base claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

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